



John O. Norquist
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

July 28, 2003

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AUG 1 2003

FCC - MAILROOM

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW, Room CY-B402
Washington, DC 20554

RE: *Application of SBC, Pursuant to Section 271 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 for Authorization to Provide In-Region, InterLATA Services in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Wisconsin, WC Docket No. 03-167*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to you to support SBC's application to offer long distance service in Wisconsin. SBC's ability to compete in the long distance market is critically important to the economic future of state workers and their families.

Competition in the long distance market is good for consumers and businesses. It brings prices down, leads to better service, and can inspire innovative products. I believe customers should have as many choices as possible.

SBC is Wisconsin's largest private-sector union employer with about 4,500 CWA employees. It is one of the state's largest employers overall with 6,000 workers in Wisconsin. SBC's Milwaukee facilities provide work for 2,600 people. Those facilities are important to the neighborhoods in which they are located, and SBC workers make important contributions to our city.

The Federal Communications Commission should quickly grant SBC the right to offer long distance in Wisconsin.

SBC's networks are open to its competitors, which currently serve 35 percent of the business lines in SBC's Wisconsin territory. The three big competitors serve more than 70 percent of all long-distance minutes in the state and can raise prices at will. Competition from SBC may result in more stability in pricing or even a lowering of rates. The consumers would win.

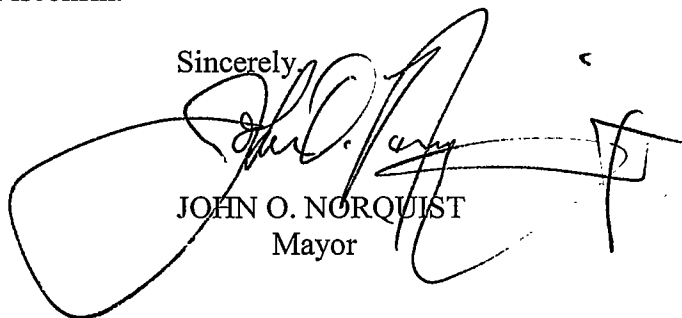
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SBC and its workers cannot succeed if it is the only company in this state that cannot offer packages that include local, broadband and long distance. Customers want all these services on one bill. SBC is currently the only company that cannot provide long distances. This must change.

It is time for the FCC to promote competition and provide choice by allowing SBC to offer long distance service in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John O. Norquist". The signature is written over the printed name and title.

JOHN O. NORQUIST
Mayor